

CONNECTICUT CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION, INC.



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House Bill 5225, An Act Concerning Solar Work General Law Committee February 25, 2010

CCIA/AGC of Connecticut Position: Oppose

The Connecticut Construction Industries Association, Inc. is the most diverse commercial construction industry trade association in Connecticut. Formed over 40 years ago, CCIA is an organization of associations, where all sectors of the commercial construction industry work together to advance and promote their shared interests. CCIA members have a long history of providing quality work for the public benefit.

CCIA is comprised of nine divisions, including the Associated General Contractors of Connecticut, Inc.; The Connecticut Road Builders Association, Inc.; Utility Contractors Association of Connecticut, Inc.; The Connecticut Ready Mixed Concrete Association, Inc.; and Connecticut Asphalt and Aggregate Producers Association. CCIA has more than 350 members statewide, including contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, and professional organizations that service the construction industry.

Associated General Contractors of Connecticut, a division of CCIA, represents commercial, industrial, and institutional construction contractors, subcontractors, material suppliers and professionals serving the construction industry. AGC of Connecticut is the Connecticut chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America, a national contractors trade association.

House Bill 5225, An Act Concerning Solar Work, would eliminate a licensing exemption for employees of or any contractor employed by and under the direction of a properly licensed solar contractor, performing work limited to the hoisting, placement and anchoring of solar collectors, photovoltaic panels, towers or turbines. The bill would also re-define the scope of solar electricity work and require the Commissioner of Consumer Protection to issue solar photovoltaic work certificates to licensed electricians.

CCIA and AGC of Connecticut are **opposed** to House Bill 5225 because employees of or any contractor employed by and under the direction of a properly licensed solar contractor should be able to hoist, place and anchor collectors. The work is not particularly specialized such that it should require a licensed electrician to perform it. Electrical connections are properly performed by licensed electricians—a trade whose workers should be familiar with the latest code requirements and who are trained and undergo continuing education.

House Bill 5225 presents another jurisdictional issue for the committee to resolve. Now is not the appropriate time to repeal a broad licensing exemption or change the licensing requirements at the suggestion of a particular trade without fully considering the work in



question, the trades performing the different aspects of the work and any other potential ramifications. The bill could have significant unintended consequences for the industry and consumers. Further, the bill would erode the authority of the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, requiring him to issue work certificates to people who are not otherwise qualified—or essential—to perform the work.

Please contact John Butts, Executive Director of AGC of Connecticut, or Matthew Hallisey, Director of Government Relations and Legislative Counsel for CCIA, at 860-529-6855, if you have any questions or if you need additional information.